

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley Presents

Barefoot in the Park

A Comedy in Three Acts

January 18, '08
through
February 16, '08
Fridays & Saturdays

Live Oak Theater
1301 Shattuck Ave
at Berryman
Berkeley

Neil Simon's
Barefoot in the Park
Directed by
Alan Barkan

Illustration by
Asher Barkan



Barefoot in the Park

A Comedy in Three Acts by Neil Simon

On Stage



<i>Ljuba Davis</i>	•	Ethel Banks
<i>Jose Garcia</i>	•	Delivery Man
<i>David Irving</i>	•	Paul Bratter
<i>Jerome Solberg</i>	•	Telephone Man
<i>David Spinner</i>	•	Victor Velasco
<i>Wendy Welch</i>	•	Mrs. Corie Bratter



Some things never change; rents are high, stairs are tiring. The same goes for certain observations on married life: Careers are complicated; honeymoons end. In *Barefoot in the Park*, two mismatched newlyweds, uptight Paul and high-spirited Corie, attempt to settle into their new top-floor apartment. Complications ensue when her fussy mother turns up and their attic-dwelling neighbor drops down.

Barefoot in the Park (written by Neil Simon as a Valentine to his wife) is a joyous celebration of love, intimacy and arguments.

ACT I

The top floor of a brownstone on East 48th Street, New York City. About 5:30 on a cold February afternoon.

ACT II

SCENE 1: Four days later. About 7:00 PM

Scene 2: Later that night, About 2:00 AM

ACT III

The following day. About 5:00 PM

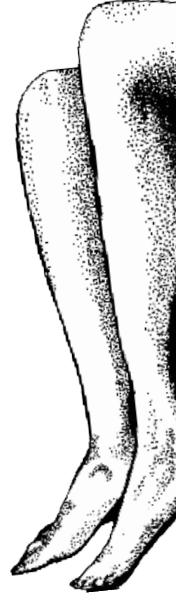
There will be 2 ten minute intermissions with refreshments available in the lobby. Please feel free to contribute more than the suggested amount. The proceeds help keep our ticket prices affordable.



Our production of "Barefoot in the Park" is dedicated to Jack Tucker and Louis Flynn. Along with Ralph Miller, they were often referred to as the "Three Wise Men" of East Bay theatre. We already miss them all very much.

Off Stage

- Alan Barkan* • Director
- Eric Carlson* • Assistant Director
- Jose Garcia* • Stage Manager
- Shu Ping Guan* • Set Design
- Bob Gudmundsson* • Lighting Design
- Helen Slomowitz* • Costumes
- Jerome Solberg* • Producer
- Eric Carlson*
Christian Carter • Set Construction
- Bob Gudmundsson*
Jerome Solberg
- Anita Akella*
Natasha Guber • Light & Sound Operators



A Note from the Director

Jerome Solberg has been encouraging me to write a director's note for the program. He's been my AE angel, so I figure I'd best write something. What intrigued me most about directing *Barefoot in the Park* is Mike Nichols. He directed the original production and what he actually did, I don't know. But he must have seen something in keeping with his reputation. He did bring us *Carnal Knowledge*!

Being old enough to think I know but not quite old enough to really know, I see Barefoot as being one of the last vestiges of the modern day Camelot – which came to an abrupt end with the assassination of John Kennedy a month after the original Barefoot production opened in 1963. So these characters were created in a time when innocence was the norm and to walk barefoot in the park, even Central Park, was an experience not limited to free spirits and those in love. But in that era of Camelot, as now, relationships required time and nurturing. At least then, laughter came easier. I hope you enjoy our look back at a different time - and for the next couple of hours, laughter comes easy.

Alan Barkan
January 16, 2008



ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES

On Stage

Ljuba Davis (Ethel Banks) – Although *Barefoot* marks Ljuba's Theatrical debut, as a mother of seven she has been playing multiple roles including Ethel for years. No stranger to the local artistic community, she is a popular folk singer specializing in Yiddish and Ladino song and has served as the major domo for the Young People's Youth Orchestra.

Jose Garcia (Delivery Man, Stage Manager) - Jose began his journey with Actors Ensemble in late 2006, running lights for "True West". He appeared as an old man and spartan soldier in "Lysistrata", and an old Don Juan in "A Dream Play". He then stage managed "All In The Timing", and reappeared on stage for "Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead". Who knows where he'll turn up next.

David Irving (Paul Bratter) – David is pleased to be making his AE debut as Paul, after playing The Telephone Man in "Barefoot in the Park" at CTA in 2002. Other favorite shows include "Cabaret" and "Bye, Bye Birdie" (ACLO), "City of Angels," "Assassins," and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" (Masquers), and "A Funny Thing...Forum" and "How the Other Half Loves (CCCT).

Jerome Solberg (Telephone Man, Producer) – Jerome Solberg has been involved with Actors Ensemble in various capacities since 2005. His favorite role was as Feste in "Twelfth Night", but he has enjoyed all the variety of different roles he has filled, both onstage and off. He wants to thank the fantastic cast and crew for putting up with his bad puns, and putting on such a fine show.

David Spinner (Victor Velasco) – David last appeared with the Actors Ensemble in 2005 in "A Murder Is Announced" and "Six Degrees of Separation." He thanks his wife, daughter, and everyone involved in "Barefoot" for the chance to indulge in this nuttiness, and dedicates his performance to his parents, who schlepped from Queens to Broadway for Neil Simon comedies. Note: No eels were harmed in the making of this production.

Wendy Welch (Mrs. Corie Bratter) – Wendy has performed throughout the Bay Area, but is pleased to call Actors Ensemble her home. Her previous roles here include Viola in "Twelfth Night," Luna in Sam Shepard's "Seduced," and (her all-time favorite) Hedda in "Hedda Gabler." She'll next appear in CCCT's summer production of "Foxfire".





Off Stage

Alan Barkan (Director) – Alan has worked with Actors Ensemble on two production as stage manger. He appreciates the opportunity AE has provided for him to rediscover why, as a young(er) man, he thought this was what he wanted to do when he grew up. In a time when he could remember lines he appeared as Tom in “The Knack: A Comedy in Three Acts”, El Gallo in “The Fantasticks” and Dylan Thomas in “Dylan”.

Eric Carlson (Assistant Director) – Eric is in NeilSimonLand (certainly a much happier place than EugeneO’Neilland) after appearing in “Rumors” (CCCT) as Glenn Cooper and now “Barefoot...”. He’s very happy to be back at AEofB, having played Eilert Lovborg (“Hedda Gabler”) and Orsino (“Twelfth Night”) in previous seasons.

Shu Ping Guan (Set Designer) – Shu Ping is, as always, happy to be working with the great talents at Actors Ensemble. She would like to thank everyone involved for being the wonderful and brilliant people that they have been. Hope you all enjoy the show.

Bob Gudmundsson (Lighting Designer, Set Construction) – Over the decades Bob’s labor on the front line of Actor Ensemble projects instrumental in keeping the Theater’s nuts and guts in order. Unbounded by tight budgets and aged building material, Bob’s abilities range from repairing the theater’s antiquated parts to replacing fractured light bulbs. His consistent presence echoes through every aspect of Barefoot in the Park from set conception to design, electrical foundations, sound effects, and much much more.

Helen Slomowitz (Costumes) – Helen is thrilled to be working at Actor’s Ensemble again with such a great play and marvelous cast and crew. Helen has had a crush on Neil Simon ever since costuming the show “Rumours” for CCCT. Helen also works with other area theatres as well as film.

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley – Fifty-one years fresh, Actors Ensemble of Berkeley has been a part of Berkeley’s theatre scene ever since seven UC Berkeley alumni began putting on plays in 1957 with “Love for Love.” Since then, we’ve held productions in more than a few places in town - including a neighbor’s basement very early on - until finally staking out a home here at the Live Oak Theatre in 1965. (continued next page)



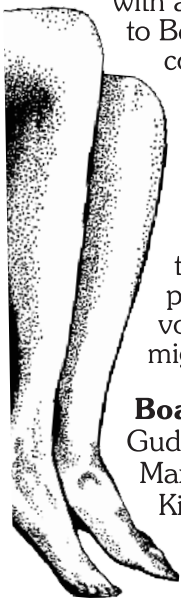


Actors Ensemble of Berkeley (continued)

Emphasizing works that feature a social consciousness and presented with an ensemble approach, we hope to offer a living theatre to Berkeley - a theatre that not only enriches and entertains its community, but also invites its participation. Along with that participation, we strive to keep shows affordable and on a year-round schedule, hopefully ensuring that our audience never wants for honest theatre.

If you're reading this program, then it's a good bet you're as smitten with the theatre as we are and might like to get involved with your services and/or a donation. Please take the program home with you and get in touch with us by phone or email. Be forewarned though if you're considering volunteering your talents and time to a future production - you might find the experience exhilarating!

Board of Directors: Eric Carlson, David Cohen, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bob Gudmundsson, William Martinelli, Jodi Maxwell, Maureen Coyne, Jerome Solberg, Stanley Spenger, Kim Stewart, Wendy Welch



Special Thanks

We want to give a special thanks to the following people and businesses who provided services and products for this production.

Abbey Carpets for floor covering

Asher Barkan for use of his illustration on all promotional materials

Bay Appliances for use of a stove & refrigerator

Contra Costa Civic Theater for all their help

Elephant Pharmacy for providing fresh flowers each week

Masquers Playhouse for all their help

Sleeping Dog Productions for designing the poster, postcard & program



51 YEARS OF THEATER

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
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2008 Season

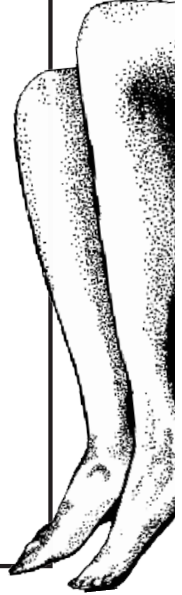
Barefoot in the Park
January 18 - February 16

Uncle Vanya
April 18 - May 17

The Matchmaker
July 18- August 16

Doctor Faustus
October 24 - November 22

SEE BACK COVER FOR SEASON TICKET INFORMATION



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Actors Ensemble of Berkeley is a community based theater and has thrived for 50 years because of the support of theatergoers like you. Our ability to produce a variety of theater experiences and maintain affordable ticket prices depends on your continued financial support. We provided a space below for anyone who cares to make a donation and help assure another 50 years of **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley**. Thank you

YES - I would like the following:

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Season Ticket

Uncle Vanya

The Matchmaker

Doctor Faustus

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